

FISH & NEAVE

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C O P Y

January 24, 1992

VIA FACSIMILE
(Confirmation Copy By Mail)

John H. Bass, Esq.
Reddie & Grose
16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL
ENGLAND

*Response to letter
for filing -*
RECEIVED
PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP.
LAW DEPT-PATENT SECTION

JAN 28 1992

NOTED

Foreign Philip Morris
PM-1336 ~~EPO~~, PM-1389 EPO
Your Ref: 33021, 31755

Dear John:

This letter summarizes our telephone conversation of January 23, 1992.

With regard to PM-1389 (your reference: 31755), we have reviewed the prior art cited in the European Search Report dated August 13, 1991. We believe that it would be worthwhile to have the original application substantively examined before considering any amendments to the claims.

With regard to PM-1336 (your reference: 33021), Dr. Deevi has informed us that the segment of FIG. 3 labeled "Passivation" should not be replaced with "Carbidization". Support for the passivation stage may be found in the U.S. application on page 20, lines 7-16.

Please feel free to call if you have any additional questions regarding these matters.

Sincerely,

Marta E. Gross
Joseph M. Cuilliano
Patent Agent Trainee

MEG/UMG:mr

cc: Beverly Monroe

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